

# ENGLISH PATRIOTS WORKED UP TO A HIGH PITCH

## Women of Rank and Fashion Taking the Liveliest Interest In the War.

### THE "AUNTIES" OCCUPY BACK SEATS

The News of Joubert's Death Is Neither Denied nor Confirmed From Any Reliable Authority—All Confidence in Buller.

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London, says:

While sensational dispatches respecting an advance of a portion of General Joubert's forces from Colenso and the investment of Estcourt have not been confirmed, the Boers have repeated the earliest incident of the war by attacking and destroying an armored train which has been used for reconnoitering purposes.

The earliest accounts of this affair differ in details, but it is evident that the train was suddenly fired upon between Estcourt and Colenso and probably derailed. The train gun was disabled, according to one account, and the men were forced into a hard fight in which there were serious losses in killed and wounded and probably prisoners as well.

It was a good Boer trap and the British force was apparently surprised. Estcourt has already been reinforced, and it is not likely that the Boers will attempt to invest it.

As the Mohawk has arrived at the Cape with the Twelfth Lancers, cavalry will be available in three days for a relief column. The embargo on news at the Cape has been so prohibitive that anything may have happened at Ladysmith during the past few days. For this reason a rumor from Pretoria, by way of Lorenzo Marquez that General Joubert had fallen in action on Thursday can neither be accepted nor rejected.

That was the day on which the last official dispatch with details of the bombardment was sent through to Durban. The rumor of his death fits in with vague reports previously received that the general firing that day was unusually severe and that a close approach was made to the British lines of defense. It was also exposed to the inherent improbability that an engagement could have taken place and the Boer commander been killed without the world knowing something about it within eight days.

Reports of an reconnaissance from Orange River to Belmont accompany accounts of the attack on the armored train above Estcourt and serve to indicate that Kimberley, as well as Ladysmith will be relieved before a general advance is made through the Orange Free State. The military experts now agree that the two exposed garrisons on each flank will be delivered from attack by the enemy in superior strength before the original plan, invasion of the two republics and the occupation of their capitals is carried out and that the latter movement will be deferred until the end of the year, when the new division now mobilizing has disembarked in South Africa.

"You can trust Buller," said one of his warmest friends to me yesterday, "to choose his own time and field of operations. He is not a man to allow the Boers to force him to fight where they will have strong defensive positions in mountain passes. He will not be drawn away from the open country where the British troops will be free to operate their own way with irresistible force."

A similar view was expressed by a prominent department chief who spoke of the necessity of overrunning both republics before the Dutch population could be impressed with the hopelessness of the struggle and induced to surrender unconditionally. Buller's march through Bloemfontein to Pretoria, he added, would be a strong safeguard for permanent peace in South Africa and Buller would be nothing if not thorough in his plans of campaign.

Women of rank and fashion are taking the liveliest interest in the war. Many of them drive from theaters or dinner parties to the war office night

after night to inquire after the latest news. Mrs. Neid, whose husband will command the regiment of Household Cavalry, will go with a few other officers wives to Cape Town. Lady Sikos and other women have decided to sail for the Cape as nurses.

Wyndhams theater was opened last night with a tremendous outburst of loyalty and patriotic fervor. The receipts, among the largest ever known for a single performance, were devoted to war charities. The "guinea pigs" of the mining and stock exchanges fairly tumbled over each other in stinging "God Save the Queen" and applauding "David Garrick."

The Prince of Wales will go to Windsor tomorrow to visit the queen and settle the details of the entertainment of the German emperor. While the emperor's visit has been shorted there is reason to believe that important diplomatic work will be done, as he will be attended by a staff qualified to discuss many questions with Lord Salisbury, including Herr Kiehnmet, who has the reputation of being an expert in Asiatic affairs. The impression is general in diplomatic circles that, while cold water has been thrown upon the municipal demonstrations in honor of the emperor, this strictly private visit will not be without practical and important results, although the attitude of a portion of the German press has been so bitter that it has been necessary to avoid the appearance of exploiting ostentatiously his reception in England.

#### HAMMERING AT KIMBERLEY.

Unable to Take Mafeking Boers Are Concentrating Efforts Elsewhere.

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.—A dispatch to the Herald from London, says:

Mafeking has resisted the Boers so successfully that General Cronje is now reported to be directing his efforts against Kimberley. It is now known that the relief movement toward Kimberley commenced some time ago. The Ninth Lancers, Northumberland Fusiliers, Munster Fusiliers and part of the Lancashires, who, some time ago, were concentrating at Aar Junction, were on Saturday last within fifty miles of Kimberley.

It was this column that fought the engagement on the 19th, (Friday), which resulted in the loss of Lieutenant-Colonel Keith-Falconer. Everything indicates that we are on the eve of very important developments in the region of the Orange River and along the line of De Aar Junction, Coleruberg, Burgersdorp and Allwal North.

#### A "BOORISH" RECEPTION.

Red Cross Train Sent Out for British Dead and Wounded Returns Empty.

ESTCOURT, Natal, Thursday, Nov. 16.—Afternoon—The Red Cross train has again returned, but without bringing in the dead and wounded. The Boers declined to give any information as to the number of either killed or injured, referring the inquiries to the Pretoria press for all information. All that they would disclose was the fact that there were three British dead and nine wounded.

#### FEARS FOR RATTLER.

Schooner Rattler Supposed to be Lost Enroute From Alaska.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 17.—The schooner Rattler is now 18 days out from Kodiak, Alaska and it is feared that she has gone down in one of the many storms that have recently swept the coast. The vessels left the Alaskan port on October 19 and has not been heard from since. Four days later the schooner Herman sailed from the same port and arrived here nearly three weeks ago after a very rough passage.



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### IS OPPOSED TO PHILIPPINE WAR

#### MAN NAMED SPRECKLES

Nobody Ever Heard of Him Before, But He Claims to Be a Republican National Committeeman.

CHICAGO, Nov. 17.—John D. Spreckles, of San Francisco, a member of the republican national committee, passed through Chicago on his way east. Mr. Spreckles will attend the meeting of the national committee at Washington, December 14.

"I am an anti-expansionist," said he, "and as I came through the great prairies of the west on this trip, I could not help but think of the great good that might have been done in our country with the money which we are

now spending to maintain the army in the Philippines.

"If that money had been spent in irrigation in the western countries, I believe the United States would have reaped greater benefits from it than it ever will by the retention of the Philippines."

Mr. Spreckles said that he thought it was very probable that the national committee would select Chicago as the place for holding the next national convention.

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